



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/616,071

07/09/2003

Toshiaki Irie

04995.105001

9945

7590

08/24/2006

Jonathan P. Osha
ROSENTHAL & OSHA L.L.P.
Suite 2800
1221 McKinney St.
Houston, TX 77010

EXAMINER

CHANG, KENT WU

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/616,071	IRIE, TOSHIAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kent Chang	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on 5/17/06. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saegusa (Japanese Published App. 05-265389) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and further in view of Kikuta (US Patent No. 4,942,391).

With respect to claims 1 and 2, Saegusa teaches a multiple control system (Abstract) for controlling a display unit (8) provided in a composite electronic apparatus (Abstract) having a plurality of electronic devices incorporated therein (paragraph 2).

Art Unit: 2629

Saegusa further teaches a first controller (3) adapted to control one of the electronic devices (paragraph 14) and having an output selection terminal (paragraph 21, see drawing 1) and an output terminal (Ps1-n) connected to the display (8).

Saegusa further teaches a second controller (4) adapted to control another electronic device (paragraph 14) and having an output selection terminal (paragraph 24) connected to the output selection terminal of the first controller (3, see drawing 1) and an output terminal (Ps1-n) connected to the display (8) in parallel with the first controller (3, see drawing 1).

Saegusa does not expressly teach a display driver adapted to drive the display unit or the output terminal of the first controller and the second controller being a three-state output. Saegusa also does not expressly teach when the first controller controls the display driver, the first controller output a first control signal to the second controller, and the second controller puts the three-state output terminal thereof in a high impedance state when the first control signal is received and that when the first controller does not control the display driver, the first controller outputs a second control signal to the second controller and puts the three-state output terminal thereof in a high impedance state, and the second controller controls the display driver when the second control signal is received.

Saegusa also teaches a device (7, input actuation section) designed to transmit the control signals to the two microprocessors based on the input of the user (paragraph 24).

On pages 1-2 of the Specification, Applicant admits that it is known to use of a three-state output terminals where three video signals feed the same output. Therefore, at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a tri-state output in the multiple control system of Saegusa in order to allow the devices to be attached to a common device without the need for extra hardware thereby reducing the construction size of the device.

In the same field of endeavor (driving one display using two controllers), Kikuta teaches to use a first display controller (10) and a second display controller (40) to drive one display device (31), and puts the output of the first controller at a high impedance at the time the second controller is driving the display (column 3 lines 35-56).

Therefore, at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a first display controller and a second display controller to drive one display device, and puts the output of the first controller at a high impedance at the time the second controller is driving the display as taught by Kikuta in the device of Saegusa so as to eliminate interference between the two display controllers. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use either of the first or second controller to perform this operation (put the output of the first controller at a high impedance at the time the second controller is driving the display) since it merely depends on which controller is being used to accept input command from the user and both controller are capable of performing the task.

With respect to claim 5, see the discussion above, note that Saegusa teaches a recording and reproducing functional part (cassette tape recorder) adapted to reproduce

Art Unit: 2629

data stored in a tape storage medium (paragraph 1), a reproducing functional part (CD player) adapted to reproduce data stored in a disc storage medium. The method and medium these devices use to reproduce data is obvious from their given names. Note also AAPA teach a similar device with a housing containing the recording and reproducing functional part and the reproducing functional part.

With respect to claim 3, all the claim limitations have already been discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 2.

With respect to claim 4, AAPA further teaches the output terminal of the controller is connected to the driver via a serial communication line (see pages 1-2 and Figures 4 and 5).

With respect to claim 6, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is known in the conventional art to use an infrared remote controller for controlling the operations of a DVD and VCR by the user. Therefore, at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use an infrared remote controller as in the conventional art so as to enable the user to conveniently control the operations of the DVD and VCR.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2629

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Beasley et al (US Patent No. 6,345,323).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kent Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-7667. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz, can be reached at 571-272-3638.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

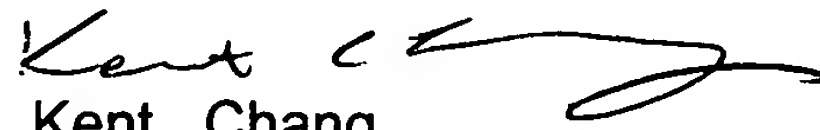
571-273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window, now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2629

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kent Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2629 Division 2629

kc
8/21/06